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Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

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Making Geographic Names Accessible and Available





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Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Joint Working Group Meeting in Innsbruck, Austria, 19 - 22 April 2017



Participants of the Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding, Innsbruck, Austria, 19-22 April 2017

Innsbruck provided a spectacular setting for the joint meeting of the Working Groups on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage; Evaluation and Implementation and; Publicity and Funding, 19-22 April 2017. The meeting was attended by 13 experts from Algeria, Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Tunisia and United Kingdom.

The meeting started with a mini-symposium on *Local Input*, arranged and moderated by the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage. The two presentations of the symposium: *WebGIS based Place Names Survey in the Tyrol* and *Slovenian farmyard and field names in Carinthia as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage*, provided a solid insight into local Austrian naming questions – at the same time touching on global aspects such as national versus local standardization. The two papers formed the basis of an interesting and in-depth discussion on issues relating to the issues of this working group.

The progress report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation highlighted the efforts of the Working Group for encouraging the implementation of resolutions; results of the workshop on implementing resolutions for the case of commemorative naming, held at the 29th session in Bangkok; a review of working papers submitted to the 29th session with

regard to resolutions, to name a few. The convenor also reported that the resolutions database, maintained by the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea, currently contains a full set of resolutions in English, French and Spanish. An Arabic language version of the resolutions text is in preparation and expected to be published soon. A preliminary results of the evaluation survey of the Bangkok session provided good sources to be referred in preparing the upcoming sessions/Conferences.

The convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding reported in the progress report on the following points: Completed items since last WG meeting; Funding activities, including toponymy training courses; the Toponymic Terminology Database and translation of publicity material; Public outreach, in the form of the Information Bulletin, the UNGEKN website and social media efforts (e.g. Facebook and twitter), Wikipedia information and the UNGEKN Media kit. Outreach efforts of recent and coming IGU/ICA Joint Commission on Toponymy, various onomastic and cartographic fora were also discussed.

The main focus of this joint meeting concerned the future structure of UNGEKN and changes to the structure of the organization – for instance, regarding the length of the meetings in UNGEKN in future, as well as the future relationship of UNGEKN and UN-GGIM and joint operational modalities. Through lengthy discussions during the three meeting days, the participants in the meeting reached consensus on a number of points – which will be presented at the venue in New York in August.

Next joint meeting between the Working Group Monday 14 August 2017 at the UN Headquarters 9:00-9:45am

We, the convenors all feel that the joint Working Group meeting was a great success. There is always much to learn from the joint meetings and see how the various UNGEKN Working Groups interact and what subjects are particularly important to individual WGs. It is my expressed hope that similar joint meetings will be held in the future.

The convenors would like to warmly thank Innsbruck University for its generous support for the meeting and to Gerhard Rampl for the organization of the joint Working Group Meeting in the wonderful city of Innsbruck. The excursion led by him on the last day to the higher points in the city endowed a great chance to take a general grasp of the city's namescape as well as to taste its beautiful scenery. All



participants had a very enjoyable and memorable time here – and not least very productive.

Participants of the meeting:

1. Brahim Atoui (Algeria)
2. Catherine Cheetham (United Kingdom)
3. Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)
4. Naima Friha (Tunisia)
5. Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark)
6. Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
7. Leila Mattfolk (Sweden)
8. Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)
9. Gerhard Rampl (Austria)
10. Annette Torensjö (Sweden)
11. William Watt (Australia)
12. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany)
13. Elisabeth Gruber (Austria)

Through teleconference:

1. Cecile Blake (UNSD/UNEGN)

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